

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, last week I was privileged to participate in an extraordinary field hearing at the University of San Francisco on Republican plans to dismantle student financial aid programs. The testimony we heard from students, parents, and college leaders put a human face on the disaster we face if this budget and debt buster passes.

I listened with growing anger and concern as officials from Stanford University, University of California, and U.S.F. showed in detail how the proposed cuts would devastate middle-class families and result in smaller, more elitist college populations.

We heard the moving testimony of students, Michael Rodriguez, Ronelle Baribaldi, Ameer Loggins, and Mary Wu. All are hard working and are making enormous sacrifices everyday because they have a thirst for education. They all underscored that student loans are investments, not handouts. They are smart investments in our Nation's future.

I urge my colleagues to reject this budget busting tax cut proposal. Education is the gateway to everything in this Nation. Let us not shortcut our students or our Nation's future.

SENIOR AMERICANS: AMERICA'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the American family is overtaxed. But our families are not limited to just young newlyweds or those with kids in college. Our families include our parents and grandparents. And just as high taxes are antijobs and antifamily, they are antiseniors.

Here are the facts:

Senior citizens with an average income face the highest marginal tax rates in the country. In fact, for seniors 40- to 80-percent tax rates are not uncommon;

A senior working at a job that pays \$5 an hour will only net \$2.20 an hour after he or she works even 1 hour past the current \$11,280 earnings limit; and

A senior who earns just \$1 over the earnings limit annually will face an effective marginal tax rate of 56 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we need to restore tax fairness to all families, including seniors. Why should the American dream disappear when someone turns 65? Why should someone be discouraged from working just when they can offer years of experience and wisdom? By raising the earnings limit to \$30,000 we will be raising the hopes and futures of one of our Nation's most precious resources, our senior Americans.

HURTING MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules has quite possibly wiped out the last chance to get a meaningful deduction for those millions of Americans struggling every month to pay their own health insurance. I offered an amendment which would have allowed 80 percent of the premium to be deducted and would have paid for it by limiting the child tax credit in the Republican bill to families earning up to \$80,000. If we would have foregone this tax credit for families earning 6-figure incomes, up to \$250,000, we could have fully funded this vital deduction.

For me, it is a matter of priorities. I think it is much more important for Congress to help families afford the coverage they need to get their children health insurance than to give this tax break to themselves and other families earning in the 6-figure range. It underscores what this Republican tax bill is all about: Helping the rich, and sticking it to middle-income working Americans.

WHAT IS GOOD FOR TODAY'S DEMOCRATS

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I want you to listen carefully to the following quote and tell me what shameless, unrepentant, unreconstructed, trickle-down, supply-sider said it: "Tax rates are too high today and tax revenue is too low. The soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now."

Jack Kemp? No. Ronald Reagan? Nope. DICK ARMEY? Close, no cigar. Actually, this wild-eyed supply-sider was none other than John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He understood what the limousine liberals in today's Democratic Party do not: Tax cuts are good for the economy.

That is why the tax bill that we are considering today is so important. It will not only restore fairness to our Tax Code, but it will also promote savings and investment, just the kind of activities that our economy needs. It was good enough for Jack Kennedy, then why is it not good enough for today's Democrats? Why? Why?

ALTERNATE MINIMUM TAX TO BE REPEALED

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, let me just say there is a little hidden dirty secret in the Republican tax bill. It was not in the contract. you will find none of the Republicans come up and talk about it. But it is the worst part of their whole bill. They repeal the alter-

native minimum tax for big corporations.

We put this provision in 1986 so that the big corporations will have to pay some taxes. The American people burn when they work hard, pay five, six, seven thousand dollars in taxes, and General Electric and Mobil and Phillips Petroleum pay none.

Well, for 6 years that has not happened. They have had to pay 25 percent of their income as taxes, and now the Republican majority wants to repeal it. Can you believe it? They are saying to the average American it is okay to go back to the old days when Unocal and Phillips Petroleum and Mobil and Ford and Chrysler paid less taxes than you. Shame on them, shame on them, shame on them.

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IN SUPPORT OF THE TAX FAIRNESS AND DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

(Mr. RAMSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Tax Fairness and Deficit Reduction Act of 1995.

Our job-creating tax cuts enhance the progressivity of the Tax Code. Middle-income taxpayers will overwhelmingly benefit directly from the capital gains tax cut, as the vast majority of taxpayers claiming capital gains are middle income.

In fact, 70 percent of all taxpayers reporting capital gains, in a recent tax year, had incomes of less than \$50,000.

By comparison, 5 percent of tax returns with capital gains were from taxpayers with annual incomes between \$100,000 and \$200,000. And, fully three-quarters of the value of all capital gains went to taxpayers earning less than \$100,000.

Most importantly, capital gains tax cuts means more jobs for the American people. One leading economist testified in the Ways and Means Committee that 285,000 jobs a year—or about 1.4 million over the 5 year period—will be gained.

The same economist showed that every \$1 billion reduction in annual taxes on capital income will lead to a \$25 billion increase in the Nation's output of goods and services.

Capital gains relief will facilitate the growth of new business and job formation, improve long-term productivity and make the United States more competitive.

Vote for job growth, lower capital costs, increased productivity and competitiveness.

Vote for H.R. 1327.

TAXING FEDERAL WORKERS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)